actions plan in areas of high concentration of child labour engaged in wage/quasi-wage employment.

At present, 12 National Child Labour Projects are under implementation in 8 States covering approximately 16,000 children. A major activity undertaken under the National child Labour Projects is establishment of special schools to provide basic needs like non-formal education, vocational training, supplementary nutrition etc., to the children withdrawn from employment. Volunatry agencies are being financially assisted to the extent of 75% for taking up welfare projects for working children under the Grants in-Aid Scheme.

In addition to the above, the National Authority for Elimination of Child Labour has also identified 100 districts which have the highest incidence of child Labour in the country. It has been decided that projects to eliminate child labour in hazardous occupations will be started as per the National Child Labour Project Scheme in these districts. A workshop of these 100 District Collectors is scheduled to take place in New Delhi on 13-14 September, 1995. The concerned Collectors have been requested to prepare project proposals in their respective districts based on the National Child Labour Project Scheme. An allocation of Rs. 34.4 crores has been made for the current year to undertake projects for children withdrawn from work.

Buying of Tabacco Strocks by Russian Team

37. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Russian team visited India to buy tobacco stocks from Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantity of tobacco that is to be bought?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No official delegation from Russia has visited India during the current year for purchase of tobacco.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per the bilateral agreement signed between the Govenrment of India and Russia on 23rd December, 1994, the Russian side is to take all necessary measures and render assistacne to Russian business entities and organisations for annual purchase of 20,000 MTs of tobacco from India during the calendar years 1995 to 1997.

Membership of the All India Newspaper Employees Federation (AINEF)

38. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the All India Newspaper Employees Federation (AINEF) has demanded verification of Memebrship of the National Organisations of Newspspers employees—National Federation of Newspaper Employees (NFNE) and the AINEF in order to setting the question of representation on the Non-Journalists Wage Board;

(b) whether it is a fact that the AINEF has demanded replacement of the NFNE representative on the Non-Journalists Wage Board; and

(c) whether the Labour Ministry has taken any decision on the demands of the AINEF; if not, by when Government decision is likely to be expected;

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government has initiated steps to amend the Working Journalists and Other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions